

(a) whether the loans of the farmers having less than five acres of land have also been written-off under the Debt Relief Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of such farmers in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to write-off their loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme provides debt relief to all eligible borrowers who are farmers, artisans, landless cultivators and weavers in rural areas only. As per the provisions of ARDR Scheme the eligibility of a borrower is determined without any reference to the size of his land holding. The category wise break-up of relief provided is not available since the reporting system does not generate such information. However, as on 26th August, 1991, the total number of beneficiaries who have been given relief by public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks in the State of Uttar Pradesh was 51,59,896 involving an amount of Rs.1046 crores.

(c) In view of the above, question does not arise.

[English]

Export of Processed Food Items

6998. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the processed food items being exported and the annual value thereof; and

(b) the potential items of export and the steps proposed to be taken by the Govern-

ment for augmentation of such exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The export of the processed food items like frozen dried fruits/vegetables, mushrooms(canned and fresh), tropical fruit concentrates, tomato paste, meat and meat products, ready to eat foods, pickles and papads etc. during 1990-91 were of the order of Rs.200 crores. To boost exports, Government has recently liberalised the Trade Policy. Further, through APEDA, schemes have been drawn up for market development, product promotion, quality up-gradation, improved packaging, price competitiveness etc.

[Translation]

Atka Nallah Bridge on National Highway No.27

6999. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Atka Nallah bridge under construction at point 326 KM on G.T. Road (N.H.27) since 1987 has not been completed so far;

(b) whether the diversion around the said bridge was completely washed away thrice during the last four years;

(c) the original estimated cost of this bridge and the cost overrun on account of delay in completion of the construction work; and

(d) the reasons for delay and the time by which the said bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.